

**Post Doctoral Research Associate** in host-pathogen evolutionary ecology Vacancy Ref: : 031106 **Closing Date** : 22-Sep-2014 The Vale Lab at

the University of Edinburgh is looking to recruit a Post-doctoral Research Associate (PDRA).

The Vale lab is closely affiliated with the Centre for Immunity, Infection and Evolution ( <http://ciie.bio.ed.ac.uk/>

) and works on the evolutionary ecology of infectious disease, focusing on the fruit fly *Drosophila* as model host of viral infection. The postdoctoral position will be funded by a Society in Science [UTF-8?] Branco Weiss grant to investigate how individual variation in resistance and tolerance may influence disease spread and pathogen evolution. The specific focus of the project is flexible according to the interests of the successful candidate, but should ideally address the genetic basis of variation in host tolerance to viral infection, or the consequences of this variation for disease transmission and viral evolution. This project will take advantage of the vast resources offered by *Drosophila* as a model system for the evolutionary ecology and genetics of host-pathogen interactions. Specifically, key infection phenotypes pertaining to resistance and tolerance will be measured on lines derived from the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP). The fully sequenced genomes of these lines allow high resolution mapping of phenotypes to genome-wide SNP data. The emphasis in the lab is to achieve a multifaceted view of host health, complementing traditional measures such as host survival with more subtle but equally important measures of host morbidity such as fecundity, activity and sleep cycles, feeding rate, or foraging and courtship behaviours.

Depending on the candidate's interests and skills, there is therefore scope to focus on host life-history, physiological health, or sickness behaviours under infection. We therefore welcome applications from candidates with a wide range of interests. We are looking for someone who is self-driven and looking to work independently within a small but dynamic group. Candidates should have or should shortly obtain a PhD with a strong background in host-pathogen interactions, evolutionary ecology, evolutionary genetics, or similar field, with the demonstrated ability to publish in peer-reviewed journals. The ideal candidate should have previous experience in designing and executing large experiments with *Drosophila*, or other invertebrates. Experience with molecular techniques (RNA extraction, PCR, qPCR, cell culture) would be particularly advantageous, as these skills are central to the project. The position is initially available for 24 months, with the possibility of extension. The starting date is flexible, but early (Jan/Feb) 2015 is preferred. Informal inquiries can be made directly to Dr. Pedro Vale (

[pedro.vale@ed.ac.uk](mailto:pedro.vale@ed.ac.uk)

), but full applications must be made by following the link to the University of Edinburgh's recruitment website (or searching the for vacancy Ref 031106):

[https://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq\\_jobspec\\_version\\_4.jobspec?p\\_id=031106](https://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.jobspec?p_id=031106)

The online system allows you to submit a CV and other attachments. For further information about our research, please see:

<http://pedrovale.bio.ed.ac.uk/>

We look forward to receiving your application. -- Pedro F. Vale Centre for Immunity, Infection and Evolution School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh Ashworth Labs, Kings Buildings West Mains Road EH9 3JT Edinburgh Scotland, United Kingdom

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